

Elk Point REVIEW

Bringing You the News since 1984

Monday, December 22, 2008

Vol. 28 No. 52 • 75 cents (GST incl.)

PM40069240 R10645

WISHING YOU
A MERRY
CHRISTMAS
Holiday
Deadline

Due to the Christmas holiday, deadline for the Dec. 30 issue will be 4 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 23.



Santa hits the surf

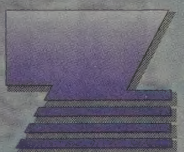
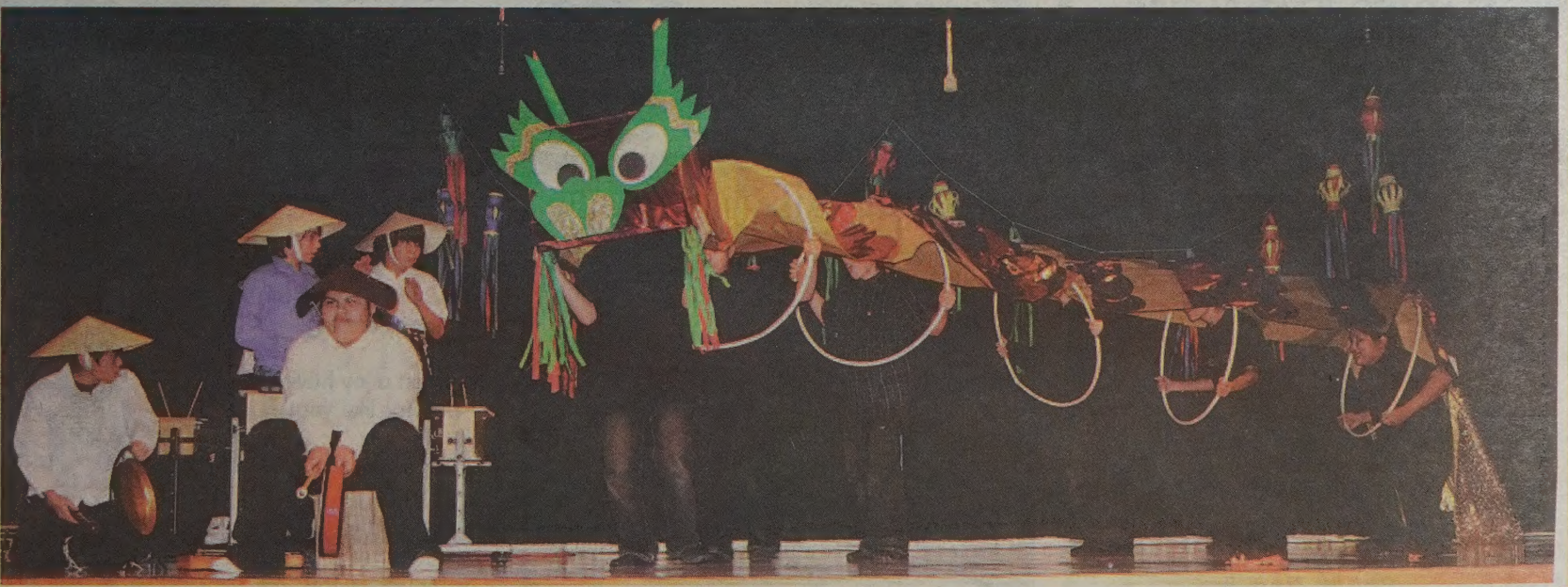
...Page 9



Vicki Brooker photos

Christmas in Elk Point

The festive season is upon us, with a full slate of activities packed into the final weeks before Christmas - concerts at schools and churches, a dance recital, and visits from Santa in sometimes unexpected places. From the miniscule Mary (left) at the Christian Community Church Nativity pageant to the handsome Tin Soldiers (above) at the Dance Education Elk Point First Annual Winter Performance, to the magnificent lion propelled by dancers through the Chinese winter festival section of Elk Point Elementary School's Wednesday concert, there's little doubt that Christmas is truly for kids. More on all three events, and others, in this issue.



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Shirley Harms
Elk Point's Real Estate
Specialist

"May your Christmas be
filled with love, peace
and happiness!"

"We have been blessed
to serve so many
wonderful people this year.
Our heartfelt thanks!"



First annual winter performance for dancers



Hope It's Very Merry!

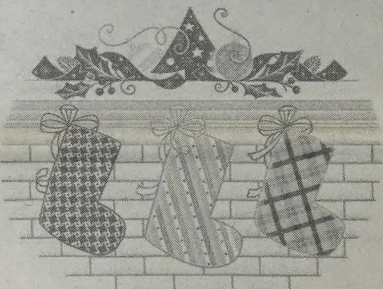
With warm wishes for a joyous and bright holiday to you and your kin this season.

Your continued support is appreciated.

Happy Holidays!

**THE HEINSBURG
COMMUNITY CLUB**

*Sards Of Warm
Wishes At Christmas*



Here's hoping everything is full of joy and beauty
this holiday season.
Thanks for doing business here "sew" easy for me.

FABRIC FANTASY'S

4817 - 52 Street, Elk Point
(780) 724-4762 Cell (780) 614-1783

Friends Like You... Make It All Worthwhile!

To our good friends far and near,
we wish you joy, we wish you cheer.
For one thing that we know is true,
We wouldn't be here without all of you.
So wherever you go and whatever you do,
please accept our best wishes,
and gratitude too!

Merry Christmas!

Closed Dec. 24 at 4 p.m.
Closed Dec. 25 & 26, Jan. 1

Shotz
LIQUOR & BEER STORE

5017 - 50 St., Elk Point Ph. 780-724-4008
Reg. Hours: Mon. to Sat. 10 am - 10 pm; Closed Sunday
Check Out Our Club Points!



Vicki Brooker photos

May It Be Merry... May It Be Bright...



May Christmas bring everything you've
ever dreamed of and more.
We know we couldn't have asked for a
better bunch of customers than you.

Happy Holidays with heartfelt
thanks from all of us.

**TASTEBUD
RESTAURANT**

Main Street, Elk Point
Ph. 780-724-4822

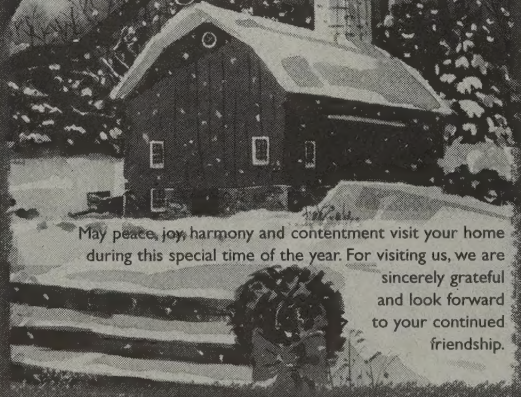
CLOSED DEC. 24 - 29,
OPEN DEC. 30TH

Season's Greetings

Our deep gratitude and warm
regards for a joyous holiday season.

Andy & Staff at
**ELK POINT
MOTEL &
RV PARK**

Greetings Of The Season



May peace, joy, harmony and contentment visit your home
during this special time of the year. For visiting us, we are
sincerely grateful
and look forward
to your continued
friendship.

**Family & Community
Support Services (FCSS)**

Ph. 780-724-3800; Fax 780-724-4303, Elk Point

• Deanna Easthope • Doreen Watson • Gene Russell
• Bernice Capjack • Isobel Myshaniuk • Parrish Tung
• Elaine Ziomek • Sandra Kummetz

CLOSED DEC 20 - JANUARY 10 INCLUSIVE

Sugarplum fairies swooped through their routine at last Saturday's crowd-pleasing performance of Dance Education Elk Point at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church.

BY VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Dance Education Elk Point (DEEP) students thrilled two packed audiences of proud parents, grandparents and siblings on Saturday, Dec. 13 with their First Annual Winter Performance.

With only five classes behind them this season, the dancers spun, leaped and swooped through six numbers, following a vocal solo by Olivia Leaf, who sang, "It's a Warm and Fuzzy Tim of Year."

Dancers Jadey Capjack, Colby Havener, Dakota Havener, Joycel Marks,

Spencer McNamara, Kendra Porcina, Abby Rybchinsky, Odin Smith and Josef Theriault performed a delightful "Twinkle, Twinkle," holding sparkly stars as they danced to the favourite nursery tune.

Alex Duffee, Emma Ellerton, Ethan Hampson, Kaden LaFrance, Janus Lundberg, Charlie Rogal, Hank Rogal and Jorja Theriault marched smartly through their routine as Tin Soldiers.

Quite in keeping with the wintry day outdoors, Shelby Berg, Renae Cameron, Tia Dore, Olivia Leaf and Kaylee Poitras swept through St. Michael's

Roman Catholic Church auditorium in a flurry of fleet footwork.

Filmy wings wafted Sugar Plum Fairies Tenille Ballas, Georgia Bendixen, Macey Drobot, Erin Duffee, Paige Henderson, Brittany Lawrence, Catherine Nofall and Kolbie Poitras through their charming number.

Shelby Berg, Renae Cameron, Tia Dore, Olivia Leaf and Kaylee Poitras returned as a quintet whose stiff motions portrayed "Dolls" come to life, to bring the concert to an end.

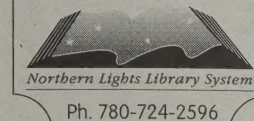


Stacks Of Best Wishes For The Holidays

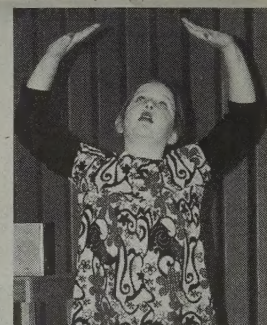
Here's hoping all
your holiday
adventures have a
happy ending.

It's been a joy having
patrons like you!

Your friends at



Ph. 780-724-2596



Jesse Theriault danced
an imaginative solo to
"The Carol of the Bells."



SPREAD THE WORD!

Wishing all our good friends
everywhere, a season of
harmony and joy.

Your support is deeply
appreciated.

Sandy, Ed & Staff of
**Quality Time Tours /
Greyhound**
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ELITE THEATRE

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or Toll Free 1-866-245-3448

Visit us at: www.magiclanterntheatres.ca



The stars came out to play in this number by the DEEP group's smallest dancers, who used hoola hoops as their base markers for the imaginative dance.



The Sugarplum Fairies rested up after their performance as they watched the senior dancers portray the stiff motions of dolls who suddenly come to life at the DEEP Winter Performance on Saturday, Dec. 13..

Home SWEET Home For The Holidays!



How sweet it is, to find ourselves right here at the holidays, amongst good friends and neighbours like you. It's been a real treat for us to serve you, and we wish you all the trimmings of a truly spectacular holiday season.

Your friends at the
GOLDEN LOAF BAKERY
780-724-4404

Happy Holidays



Friends like you bring joy to our hearts and a smile to our faces.

Many thanks for your loyal support this past year.

EMPRESS FAMILY RESTAURANT & LOUNGE

Ph. 780-724-3828

Closing early Dec. 24 & Dec. 31 at 4 p.m.
Closed Dec. 25, 26, 27 & 28, Jan. 1

THANKS FOR DROPPING IN!



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From Tim, Nathalie and the staff of

HOME TOWN GROCERS
Phone 780-724-3776

THANK YOU

To all sponsors and volunteers who helped make the

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Best Wishes Are On The Way!



As another season comes galloping in, we're ready to deliver our best wishes to our many supporters, and hope that you enjoy a simply one-of-a-kind holiday season.

Thanks for including us in your travels this past year.

Allen, Sherry & Staff of
LAKELAND TIRECRAFT LTD.

Ph. 780-724-3810

Rejoice!



In this season of miracles, may you and your family find peace, joy and enlightenment.

Merry Christmas

From the Quist family of

QUIST LIVESTOCK

Elk Point

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Happy Holidays!

FAITH... FUN... FRIENDS... FAMILY... FESTIVITY...

Wishing you a string of glad tidings this holiday season.

With best wishes and gratitude to our loyal patrons and friends.

Merry Christmas!

DARREN, DAVID AND STAFF OF

QUICK-E-MART
BOONE'S COLD BEER & LIQUOR
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Drop in, the coffee's always on!



A-JAY'S TRUCK & CAR WASH

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

We would like to thank all our customers for their patronage and wish everyone and their family a safe & happy holiday!

Adrian, Shannon & Family

COMMENT

Surviving holidays ...more or less

By ALEX BUCK

F. G. Miller High School

The weather is cold, the air bites, and wallets ache. Yes, Christmas is coming. During the coldest part of our year our calendars become booked solid with shopping, planning, and plotting.

Clawing through our wrapping paper to get at our gifts, we sometimes break face with the charitable nature of the holidays. It becomes easy to forget why we decide to do this balancing act each year. We do it to spend time with each other.

Surviving the holidays with our families can be a challenge in itself. With tensions hot and paycheques burned, it can be a single misplaced comment over an unwanted gift or a burned cookie that turns the temperature up on your Christmas.

Here's some advice on what not to say.

- Didn't I give you this last year?
- Oh...it's extra large.
- Do you still have the receipt?
- You really should have put more air holes in the puppies' box.
- So you boys think you can share that gift?
- I love it.. but Grandma might find it more useful.
- What is this thing...?!
- Maybe it'll look better once I put my glasses on.
- I already have one.
- Oh cool...a book...

Go for the high road and turn the other cheek this Christmas. And you might manage to survive until New Year's.

WAY BACK WHEN...

New mayor, fine arts, concerts

HERE'S THE NEWS THAT MADE THE HEADLINES OF THE LAKELAND REVIEW AND ELK POINT FOR THE WEEK OF DEC. 23 IN...

1988

Ed Buck was sworn in as Elk Point's new mayor after the Dec. 14 by-election, giving Elk Point its first full council in two years. Donna Dahmer was among candidates seeking the Beaver River Progressive Conservative nomination for the upcoming by-election to replace her late husband.

1993

Shamrock Valley Enterprises won the Elk Point Chamber of Commerce Business of the Year award, presented by Canada Post. Talent ran rampant at F. G. Miller High School's pre-holiday Fine Arts Night, where young local songwriter Travis Pankiw thrilled his fellow students and their parents with three of his original songs.

1998

Water treatment plant upgrading topped Town Council's priorities for infrastructure improvements. Even the Christmas Grump wore a smile at Elk Point Elementary School's dual concerts, where a Jamaican celebration featured a Jingle Bells macarena dance and a huge collection of stuffed animals were distributed to local emergency services workers to distribute to children in times of distress.

2003

No less than 28 cousins arriving on a rusty John Deere made Elk Point Elementary's Thursday concert "One Crazy Night," a hilarious encore to Wednesday's concert, when Five Star General Comet Powell added his brilliance to the manger scene in "Once Upon a Starry Night." Town council, the chamber of commerce and officials of CNRL held a very positive meeting to discuss concerns of some local businesses working for the oilpatch giant, and agreed to set up a joint committee to address these matters.



GUEST COLUMN

O little town

Christmas is only a few days away. May all of you have a very Merry Christmas. As we think about Christmas do all of you remember the Christmas Carol - "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? Of course you do. This carol takes us back two thousand years - to the "little town of Bethlehem," where a miraculous gift has just been given to the world. A casual observer would at first sense nothing out of the ordinary. But as Christians, we look back on that night in awe and expectation.

The carol's author, Phillips Brooks, was a Harvard-trained minister whose dynamic and Christ-centered sermons brought him great popularity. He traveled widely during his lifetime, and he based his Christmas carol and its picture of Bethlehem on memories of an 1865 visit to the Holy Land. During these travels he arranged to spend Christmas in Bethlehem. On Christmas Eve, he visited the field where according to tradition the shepherds heard the angelic proclamation. He then attended services in the Church of the Nativity. Afterwards he wrote a letter to the children of his Sunday School in Philadelphia, to whom he was exceptionally devoted, telling them of "standing in the old church in Bethlehem, close to the spot where Jesus was born, when the whole church was ringing hour after hour with the splendid hymns of praise to God."

The Elk Point Review publishes a variety of opinions as a contribution to debate on matters of public concern. Unsigned editorials express the view of this newspaper's editorial board which includes the Publisher and the Editor. Signed pieces express the view of the individual writer.



deanna
EASTHOPE

from the FCSS desk

These vivid memories remained with Phillips Brooks. In 1868 he wrote this carol text that embodies his lifelong devotion to the divine sonship of Jesus Christ. Lewis H. Render, the superintendent of Reverend Brooks's Sunday School and also the church organist, set the text to music. An editor later named the tune ST. LOUIS, deriving this name from the composer's first name.

Most printed copies of this carol quote only the first three verses. Originally it had two more, though Phillips Brooks himself later withdrew the fourth. Many hymnals include the fifth verse today, printing it as verse four. These are the original verses four and five:

*Where children, pure and happy,
Pray to the Blessed Child;
Where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
Where charity stands watching,
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem!
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in,
Be born in us to-day.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.*

ELK POINT REVIEW

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Vicki Brooker
EDITOR



Melanie McRae
SALES
FRONT DESK



Doug Basset
SPORTS

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Canada



Alberta
Weekly Newspapers
Association

Santa's first on-line adventure

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

A reluctant Santa, declaring his handwritten list was every bit as good, learned the benefits of going on-line in Elk Point Elementary School's first of two concerts last week.

After a welcome from principal Lorne Young, and O Canada led by Brooke Gormley, the show began with songs by Mrs. Wood's KA and Mrs. Fodchuk's KC classes, who "Rocked Around the Christmas Tree," and declared, "Christmas Time is Santa Time."

After winners of the ECS Christmas draws claimed their prizes, MCs Carson Ference and Leanna Gibson invited everyone to sit back and enjoy "an around-the-world adventure."

Santa and his techno-elf, along with a pair of Mrs. Roche's Grade 6 students glumly contemplating their winter internet project, were happy to discover a wealth of information about winter celebrations around the world, with just a few clicks of the mouse.

Learning about the Christmas customs of Denmark, where a cheery group of Mrs. Buryn's 1As sang "Jingle Bells" and wished the audience "God Jul," helped to persuade Santa to get a home page and e-mail.

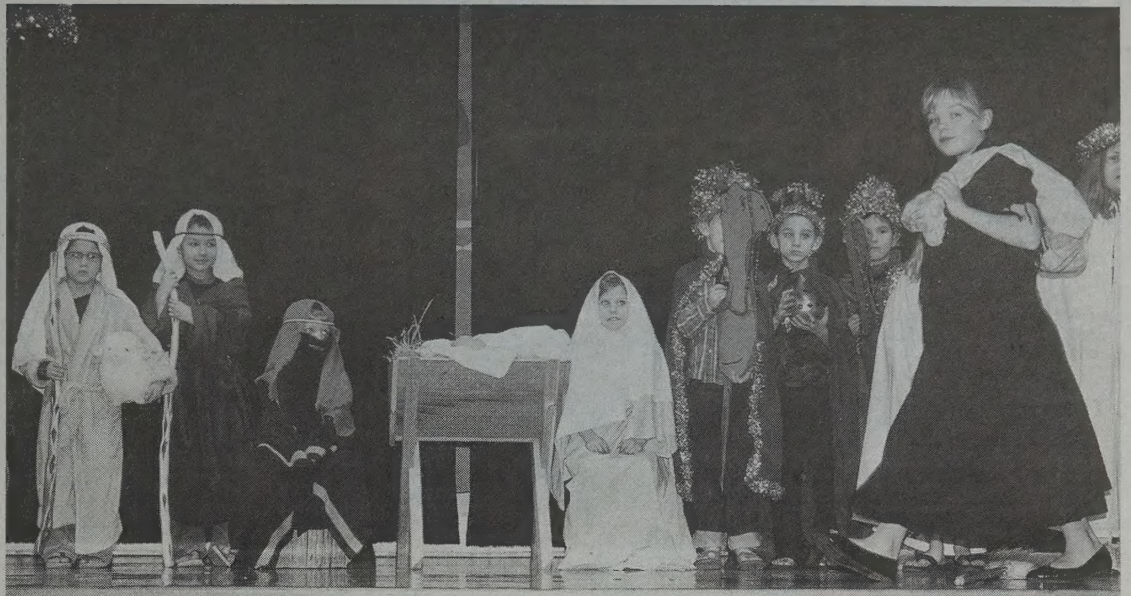
The same group were part of the next electronic visit, this time to Germany, origin of the Christmas tree, a number of traditional carols and the custom of St. Nicholas Day, as the audience enjoyed "O Christmas Tree," "Away in a Manger," and with the fabled Saint and his stick-carrying assistant on hand, wound up with an action-filled tribute to "Jolly Old St. Nicholas."

Santa had some problems with his Italian list last year, and set off a round of bad behaviour among that country's children, the techno-elf said, suggesting he find out how bad by checking Italy's home page. Strangely, he didn't find any misbehaviour, but he did discover that the Nativity scene originated there. Narrators from Miss Ockeman's and Mrs. Lindquist's 3A class read the scripture verses as Mary and Joseph with the baby Jesus were joined by shepherds, angels, a glowing star and three majestic kings, who all came together in a song of rejoicing. In Italy,

gifts are traditionally given on Jan. 6, and instead of Santa, tradition states that an old woman, Bafana, is the one who brings gifts to children on her never-ending search for the baby Jesus.

Half-way around the world, the techno-travelers checked in on Mexico, where market stalls sell crafts, food, flowers and pinatas in preparation for the Christmas season. Mrs. Jenner's 2A students portrayed the celebration of La Posada, with people grouped into pilgrims, who go door to door asking for a place to stay, and innkeepers, who turn them away, until they come to the house where a Nativity is set up. There they celebrate by breaking a pinata, doing a lively hat dance and singing "Feliz Navidad."

(Continued on Page 6)



Vicki Brooker photos

The old woman, Bafana, strides through the Italian countryside at Christmas, looking for the ever-elusive baby Jesus.



A lively Hanukkah dance and light from eight bright candles of the menorah are part of winter celebrations in Israel.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

to our Neighbors, Associates,
Customers & Friends

With heartfelt thanks, we recall the many individuals who have helped make this past year a memorable one for us, and wish you all the very merriest holiday season ever.

Your kindness and generosity have made doing business in this community a real joy for us!



4601 - 50 Ave., Elk Point, AB
Bus. 780-724-4876

Have A One-Of-A-Kind Christmas!

We're hoping that your holiday is simply outstanding in every way!

Merry Christmas and many thanks to all our good friends this Christmas.

Granny Dawn's Attic

Corner of 50th and 50th
Elk Point
Ph. 780-724-4412

Joy
Peace
Love
Faith
Hope
Cheer

Happy Holidays!
Hope your holiday has it all!

Elk Point
Elementary
School Staff
and
Students

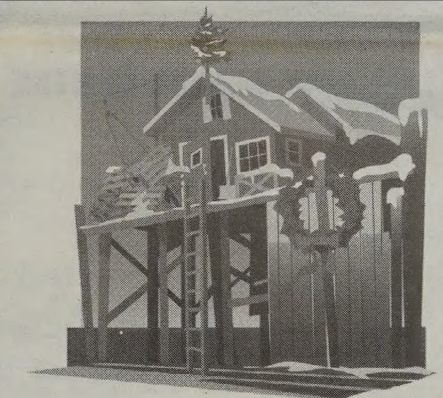
Filled With Warm Wishes At Christmas

We're overflowing with best wishes.

From everyone here, to each one of you!

Kid's
OILFIELD
SERVICES LTD.

Phone 780-724-4468 Elk Point



To Our Good Friends, Everywhere!

In this season of peace and goodwill, we'd like to extend our gratitude and best wishes to all those who have passed our way this year.

We look forward to serving you again soon, and wish you all a very merry holiday season!

Roland, Jean, René and Staff of

Elk Point Burger Bar

CLOSED DEC. 21 - CHECK DOOR FOR REOPENING DATE

Home For The Holidays

We're sending this note to let you know that there's no place we want to go. For there's no place we'd rather be than right here in this community!

With appreciation for all your support this holiday season.

Your friends at

ELK POINT TRUSS LTD.

780-724-3730

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Part A, Section 1

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GREETINGS OF THE SEASON

Christmases may come and go, but it's the warm memories of good times shared with people we care about that will last forever.

For all the times we've shared with you this past year, we are sincerely grateful and we wish you all the very merriest holiday season ever!

Your friends from
ELK POINT REALTY
4908 - 48 St. Elk Point, AB
Phone: 780-724-4777

Full MLS Service



Holiday customs around the world range from the visit from St. Nicholas and his stick-carrying sidekick to children in Germany (left) to the breaking of a colourful pinata in Mexican homes (right) as part of the festivities surrounding Christmas.



On-line adventure

(Continued from Page 5)

Other celebrations are also the part of the winter months. The Chinese New Year celebration is a colourful one. Drums, and cymbals accompanied a magnificent dragon dance, while rhythms tapped out on xylophones accompanied a graceful ribbon dance by three young ladies from Mrs. Roche's Grade 6A class.

In Israel, Hanukkah is an eight-day celebration of lights, with an additional candle lit in each family's menorah for each of the days, and eight nights of gifts for the children. Along with a solemn religious ceremony, portrayed in song, Hanukkah was celebrated with singing and dancing by Ms Capjack's 5A students.

The final stop on the round-the-world investigation of customs was jolly old England, where Miss Grabas' 4A ladies in furry muffs and gents in bowler hats cheerfully sang, "Here We Come A-Wassailing," along with another traditional carol, "Deck the Halls."

The investigating students decided to check one last source of information, and e-mailed Santa.

"They want MY help?" he exclaimed, reading his first-ever e-mail. However, when he found out he could reply to all those letters without ever licking a stamp, he admitted that, "Computers might be a help after all."

The older students joined Santa, the techno-elf and the investigating students in singing "The Alleluia Chorus," before Grades 1, 2 and 3 joined them in the traditional "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."



Christmas is here, and we hope the season delivers much happiness and good fortune to you and yours!

We appreciate the year-round support of good friends like you, and we wish you all the best at Christmastime and throughout the new year.

CLOSED DEC. 22 - JAN 1 - OPEN JAN. 2, 2009
Extravaganza Draw Winners
Cecil Dorey, Jeff Aarts, Doris, Billy Quinney and Margaret Young

From the Management & Staff
Hwy. 41 North Elk Point
Phone 780-724-3433



Happy Holidays

As we welcome this season of peace and joy, our thoughts turn to the many good folks who have blessed us with their generosity and support, and we wish you all the very, merriest season followed by a happy and prosperous year.

Elk Point B.P.O.E.
Elks Lodge #460
Elk Point O.O.R.P.
PLEASE NOTE: NO BINGO DEC. 25 OR JAN. 1

happy holidays

DR. JONATHON NG & STAFF
ELK POINT DENTAL CENTRE

Extend Season Greetings
for a Very Merry Christmas
and a Joyous, Happy New Year

May this be a special time of love, laughter,
and memories with family & friends.

Our thanks for your trust and patronage
at our dental office.

Holiday Closure will be:
12:00 p.m. Wednesday, December 24 to
9:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2009 inclusive.

Even Santa needs to take a breather!



Enjoy your time with your family and friends over the season.

CLOSED DEC. 22 - JAN. 18



George, Jackie, family and staff wish you all the best for 2009!

See you January 19, 2009

4904 - 50 St.
Elk Point, AB
Phone: 780-724-2616
780-724-2622



Ho...Ho...Hold The Press- It's Christmas!

Before we wrap up another holiday edition, we'd like to give you our greetings right here in colour, along with our gratitude for your loyal readership. Happy Holidays

From Vicki & Mel at the
Elk Point REVIEW
Ph./Fax 780-724-4087

Merry **CHRISTMAS** FRIENDS!

Special holiday wishes to my "White Mouse"

MELANIE M'RAE
AVON
INDEPENDENT SALES REPRESENTATIVE
PHONE 780-724-3892

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



FROM YOUR LOCAL
Sports Hound

Dear Santa, Please bring the Leafs a Stanley Cup



With Our Appreciation At This Season Of Joy...

As we fondly recall memories of Christmases past, we realize that there's no time like the present to acknowledge all the people who have brought so much joy to us, and hope that the Christmas to come will leave you with the very brightest memories of all!

Very Merry Greetings

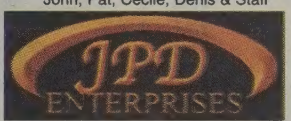
THE CUTTING EDGE
 Myra & Roberta
 4906 - 50 Street
 Elk Point, AB
 Phone 780-724-3991

BRIGHT WISHES AT THE HOLIDAYS
 The chill is in the air but we're filled with warmth when we think of all the great people we've had the pleasure to meet this year.
 Merry Christmas, everyone!
 **Canada Trust**
 4830 - 50 Street, Elk Point
 Ph. 780-724-8085

Flexability
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 Clara Ference
 Owner / Therapist
 Member of AMT WP
 4817 - 50 Ave., Elk Point
 Ph. 780-724-3539

Best Wishes
from Dwayne, Tracy, family & staff of
PRAIRIE TECH
OILFIELD SERVICES
 Elk Point • Phone 780-724-4665

TIDINGS OF PEACE AND JOY
 John, Pat, Cecile, Denis & Staff

JPD ENTERPRISES
 4906 - 48 St., Elk Point • Dispatch: 780-724-4573

Happy Holidays

BERNICE BATDORF
 780-724-4843
 5114 - 56A Avenue, Elk Point

Wishing Our Dear Friends
A Merry Christmas

Weatherford
 Artificial Lift Systems
 5206 - 46 Street, Elk Point
 Phone: 780-724-4079
BMW Products & Services

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Buffalo Resources Corp.
 4807 - 50 Ave., Elk Point, AB
 Phone: 780-724-4855

We Wish You A Merry Christmas!
 Gordon & Sharon Kuhn of

KUHN'S WHOLESALE
 5213 - 50th Ave., Elk Point, AB
 Ph. 780-724-4434

verymerrygreetings
 Have a wonderful Christmas with your families.
HERITAGE LODGE
 Staff & Residents

MERRY CHRISTMAS
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**HO...HO...
HOWDY PARTNERS!**



Jack and Jill Playschool held their Christmas party last Tuesday, in their Elk Hall classroom, with parents and siblings joining instructor Erin Mohyluk and the youngsters for the event. There is still ample room to accommodate more students in the playschool, when classes resume in early January.



BUY IT SELL IT FIND IT

IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

At This Season Of Wishes



MERRY CHRISTMAS
JOYEUX NOEL
MIYO MANITOU KISIKAW

*Христового Різдва та
Щасливого Нового Року*

From the Board of Trustees and Staff

St. Paul Education Regional Division #1

www.stpauleducation.ab.ca

What? No Christmas?

By PASTOR JIM
MACLELLAN
Elk Point Baptist
Church

It's a familiar note in most Christmas plays, isn't it? Too much snow! Not enough snow! The toy-making is behind schedule! It's as predictable as Timex — somewhere in the play we are faced with the devastating news that Santa won't make it this year. But hold on to your reindeer — he always comes through! Our national media has picked up the same refrain. The unpredicted and unwanted financial recession of 2008 is singing the same song: Christmas is not going to be the same for many families this year.

What if there was no Christmas? No, I mean it! What if there had never been a Christmas? What if there had never been a boy named Jesus born in Bethlehem nearly 2000 years ago? What if there was no Mary;

no Joseph; no angels; no shepherds; or no wise men? What if

This year, one of the books that impacted me greatly was *How Christianity Changed the World* (by Alvin J. Schmidt); and another of the same kin: *What if Jesus Had Never Been Born?* (by D. James Kennedy). Both offer answers to this question: What if there had never been Christmas?

Attacking Christianity has become a favorite pastime of many people. There are a number of accusations that land squarely on the "guilty" verdict. But rarely do we hear of people asking the honest, intelligent, historically-rooted question, "What if there had never been a Christmas?" Let me summarize a few things that these men substantiate in their research:

For you who are in hospital, thank God for Christianity. Christians started hospitals in the

Middle Ages.

For you students that are coming home from university for the holidays, remember it was Christians who launched literacy and educational institutions.

For all you entrepreneurs — it was Christians who foresaw in the Bible the ethics of free enterprise.

For Americans and Canadians, thank God for Christians who sought to obey God and not only discover but develop the "New World".

For you who will receive help from others this Christmas Season, remember the Good Samaritan story.

One of the important results of Christianity is the fact that I get to write this article and some of you get to disagree with me. Freedom of religion and civil liberties are Christian initiatives! But the quintessential reason we ought to thank God for Christmas, is that in this miracle of the Season, He has given you and I the opportunity to believe in His Son and not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

On behalf of the congregation of Elk Point Baptist Church, I wish you a very thankful Christmas Season. He did come! He was born! He lived and died! He rose again and ascended back to Heaven! He is coming again! We do have Christmas! And we do have great Hope! (For more information or to comment: www.elkpointbaptistchurch.org)



We all hope your holiday brings much peace and joy and all good things! We know we've had a ball serving all of you this past year and appreciate your kind patronage.

Don & Sandra Woytkiw of

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Surfin' Santa checks out sunnier climate

By VICKI BROOKER
Review Staff

Elk Point Elementary School's 'B' classes chose an old favourite for this year's Thursday concert, bringing back the surf-and-sand hit that thrilled the audience at the 2001 concert.

Who can blame Santa for dreaming of a warm Christmas? Living at the North Pole and navigating in often bad weather as he makes his way around the world on Christmas Eve would certainly bring a person to daydreaming about a much warmer place to spend the holidays.

Winning a big lottery gave him a good excuse to head south, but it wasn't really a good time to abandon

the toyshop, because a hostile takeover puts the annual toy delivery in jeopardy.

It's fortunate that Mrs.

Claus is keeping an eye on things, and straightens out the situation in the nick of time, with help from Santa's elves and two young friends.

HO-HO-TOW!



Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

MIKE CHUBEY OF

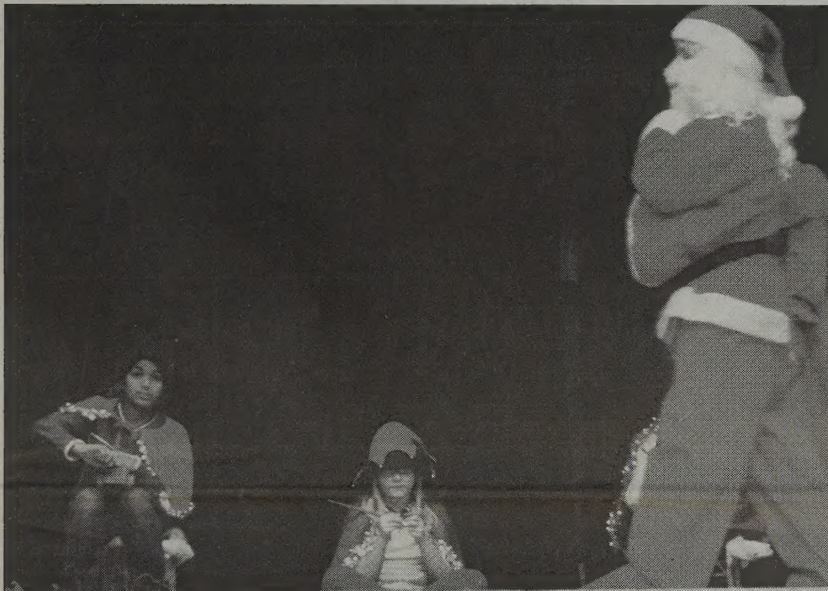
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Diane Dewan photos

"If Only I Can Make it Throrugh The Winter" is a popular train of thought these days, and is also one of seven songs that were a part of Thursday's concert presentation, "Surfin' Santa." After all, who can blame him for wanting to hang ten in the tropical sunshine instead of dodging icicles and climbing down ice-crusted chimneys in the dark of a long winter's night?



Santa's pacing the toyshop as winter doldrums have him in their grip.



Merry Christmas to you and your family.

We wish to take this opportunity to say **"THANK YOU"**

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Main Street, Elk Point
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HOLIDAY HOURS

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Dec. 31 at 5 p.m.

CLOSED

Dec. 25, 26 & Jan 1

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY



May your home be filled with laughter, from the cellar to the rafters – and when the holidays are through, may our best wishes reside with you.



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No. 19
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Christian Community Church celebrates Nativity



Vicki Brooker photos

An angel choir proclaims Jesus' birth (above) at the Christian Community Church Nativity pageant on Dec. 14. Later, angels, shepherds and wise men brought gifts to the Holy family's newborn Prince of Peace.



If you knew the gift!

BY PASTOR BILL KRYZANOWSKI

Elk Point Christian Community Church

IN MEMORIAM
EWASIUK, Raymond
Sept. 12, 1940-Dec. 26, 2006



*If we could have you, for just one day
We would hug you and hold you, and say,
"Come this way"
"We have so much to show you,
So much to catch up on."*

*We would ask for your approval, and
Advice to move forward on.*

*If we could have you, for just one day,
We would say, "We love you and miss you,"
There are so many things we would like to do with you,
"We wish that you could stay."*

Lovingly remembered by
Levina, Valerie, Bill, Athena,
Savanna, Darryl & Lucie.

As 2008 comes to a close, we find ourselves in another very busy Christmas season. Preparation for Christmas programs, family gatherings, Christmas shopping a host of other things.

To most people Christmas is a most happy time, but to others, just another season.

If one would ask, almost everyone would tell you that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth. Yet His birthday is celebrated so differently from any other.

IN MEMORIAM
In Loving Memory of
NAZARCHUK, Roman
1894 - Dec. 30, 1978
NAZARCHUK, Eva
1907 - May 13, 2001

*What we would give if we could say
We should go visit Mom & Dad today,
To hear them laugh, to see them smile,
To sit and talk with them a while.
Put your arms around them
GOD and
Give them both special care;
They are the parents we loved so much.*

Lovingly remembered by Ed and Rose.

Normally the person with the birthday receives the gifts, but not so with Jesus' birthday. As I was thinking about this I wondered what Jesus would want for his birthday if we were to ask Him. A verse of scripture in the gospel of John 4:10 came to my mind. (Please read the whole chapter to get the real meaning of this verse.)

"And Jesus answered and said to her, "If you know the 'gift' of God and who it is who says to you, give me a drink, you would have asked him and he

would have given you living water."

The gift Jesus mentioned here was eternal life. John 3:16 tells us, "God so loved us so much, that he allowed his son Jesus to come into this world, live a perfect sinless life, died on a cross, was resurrected on the third day, ascended into heaven and there He sits at the right hand of God as our intercessor. This living water Jesus offered the new Samaritan women was the same new birth offered to Nicodemus in John 3. He offered this new birth to all who will repent of their sins and believe in Him as Saviour and Lord. In Acts 4:12, we

read these words: "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Why not make this Christmas the best one ever by receiving the greatest gift of all, eternal life! Take some time this Christmas to read the beautiful Christmas story in Luke 2. As you ponder the birth of Jesus (God's love gift to us) I trust you will have more than a Merry Xmas. May you have a very blessed and joyous Christmas.

Remember, Jesus is the reason for the season!

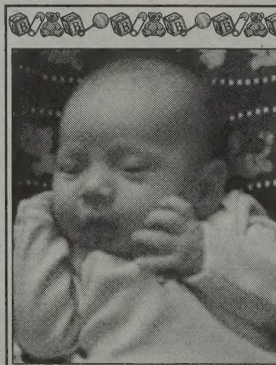
IN MEMORIAM
STAFFORD, Pete

In loving memory of a dear husband, father and grandfather who passed away December 25, 2006.

*The day is remembered and quietly kept,
No words are needed,
We shall never forget,
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen and unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed, and so very dear.*

Forever in our hearts, Karen; Carrie, Brent & Family; Tina, Brad & Family; Tyson, Twila & Family; Darcy, Brandi & Lyndon.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



Birth Announcement
Trayden Edward Gadwa

Born Nov. 25, 2008
Weights 7 lbs. 8 ozs.

Proud Parents:
Gordon & Dayna Gadwa
Proud Grandparents:
Dwayne & Donna Yaremkevich
Gordon Gadwa & Audrey Steinhauer
Brother to Tyson & Tallyn

CHURCH SERVICES

Elk Point Baptist Church
5705 - 49 St., Elk Point
Pastor Jim MacLellan
Pastor Jason Goulet
Family Worship Service
Sundays - 10 a.m.
Sunday School - 11:15 a.m.
Call 724-4194 for more information
or see our Website:
www.elkpointbaptistchurch.org

St. Vladimirs' Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Elk Point
For service times, call 645-5156,
St. Paul or 724-4175, Elk Point.

United Church of Canada
4822 - 50 Ave., Elk Point
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Father Ambrose
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11:30 a.m.
Mass 1st Tuesday of the month at
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Mass and Holy Hour
1st Friday of the month at 7 p.m.

Bethel Lutheran Church of Lea Park
Weekly Services, 10:30 a.m.
Holy Communion 2nd and 3rd
Sundays

Bible Fellowship Church Clandonald
Services held every
Sunday at 11 a.m.

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9005. Personals

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Bird count on again

By PAUL E. BOISVERT

Birders and nature enthusiasts in the Town and County of St. Paul will join birders across the western hemisphere and participate in Audubon's longest running wintertime tradition, the 109th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year over 2000 individual counts are scheduled to take place throughout the Americas and beyond.

For the fourth consecutive year birders in the St. Paul count area can participate in two different counts. Beginning on December 14 and running through to January 5, any birder can begin counting birds in what we call the Greater County of St. Paul Winter Bird Count. Birders can select the time and days that are convenient to them. The count can be done at any location in the County (including towns and villages). Birders can do field or feeder observations or a combination of both. All that is required is that a record of the species and numbers be kept along with the dates and general location (i.e. Ross Lake) of the observations carried out.

Then on December 20, those birders who want to participate in the Audubon CBC, carry out their observations on that day only. Again the number of birds counted is reported by species along with the general location where they were observed. If possible Range and Township Road identification is good for the County and street addresses in the townships.

Any interested birder can participate in either one of the counts or in both if they so choose. Forms on which your counts can be reported are available at the Town of St. Paul Community Services office. Those who have e-mail can contact hawkowl4@telus.net (note that is 4 not 14) and forms will be sent to you. More information can be obtained by contacting the e-mail address given or by calling Paul at 780-645-3409 (evenings only please).

Birding is an excellent activity for persons of all ages and abilities. You need not be an expert to participate in either of these events. And, when you don't know what to do with the visiting relatives, create a friendly family birding competition!

As usual, the final tally of both these counts will be published in this newspaper.

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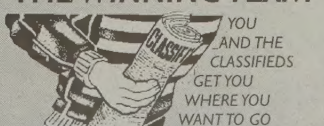
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From all of us to all of you, go our warmest wishes for a very merry and satisfying holiday season.



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season's greetings



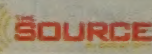

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